

WILDLIFE CORRIDOR CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

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July 13, 2005

David Crabtree, AICP
City Planner
City of Brea
Planning Division, Development Services Department
1 Civic Center Circle
Brea, California 92821

DRAFT

Carbon Canyon Specific Plan Repeal and General Plan Amendment

Dear Mr. Crabtree:

The Wildlife Corridor Conservation Authority (WCCA) has reviewed the Notice of Preparation and Initial Study (IS) for Carbon Canyon Specific Plan Repeal and General Plan Amendment. WCCA was established to provide for the proper planning, conservation, environmental protection, and maintenance of the habitat and wildlife corridor between the Whittier-Puente Hills and the Cleveland National Forest in the Santa Ana Mountains.

The project includes a repeal of the Carbon Canyon Specific Plan, a change in the General Plan land use designations for a majority of the residential categories in the Carbon Canyon Specific Plan area to Hillside Residential, changing of zoning to reflect the General Plan, including application of the Hillside Zoning Ordinance (HZO), and an amendment of the map of significant ridgelines to incorporate any identified ridgelines (IS, p. 10). Under the proposed project, the total number of residential units that could be developed in the area would be substantially reduced compared to the development levels assumed in the General Plan (IS, p. 28).

In general, WCCA concurs with the City's approach to reassigning land use designations and zoning to reflect the City's goals and policies in the recently adopted General Plan Update (2003) and the HZO. For example, in WCCA's March 13, 2003 letter to the City regarding the General Plan DEIR, WCCA recommended that the natural vegetated land within the Carbon Canyon Specific Plan be designated as HR (as is now shown on the Proposed General Plan Land Use Plan in the IS, Figure 5). WCCA also previously expressed its support for many of the policies and goals in the General Plan Update.

WCCA also concurs with the IS (p. 36) stating that Puente-Chino Hills areas serve as an important wildlife corridor between the Santa Ana

City of Brea
Carbon Canyon Specific Plan Repeal and GPA
July 13, 2005
Page 2

Mountains to the east and San Gabriel Mountains to the north. WCCA also concurs with the IS, which states that Carbon Canyon has been identified as an important corridor link within the larger wildlife corridor connecting these topographic complexes.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. If you have any questions, please contact Judi Tamasi of our staff at the above address, or by phone at (310) 589-3200, ext. 121.

Sincerely,

Steven A. Feld
Chairperson